

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 00089 040753Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W  
-----040756Z 063884 /22

R 040616Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 367

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 0089

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY MADRAS FM CALCUTTA  
ON JAN 3/77

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L CALCUTTA 0008

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, IN  
SUBJ: NEW GOVERNMENT IN ORISSA

REF: 76 CALCUTTA 3134, 76 CALCUTTA 3111

1. ON DECEMBER 29 IN BHUBANESWAR A NEW ORISSA STATE GOVERNMENT WAS SWORN IN, ENDING 13 DAYS OF PRESIDENT'S RULE, WHICH HAD BEEN INVOKED AFTER THE OUSTER OF MRS. SATPATHY. THE MINISTRY IS HEADED BY BINAYAK ACHARYA, AND CONSISTS OF NINE CABINET MINISTERS, FOUR MINISTERS OF STATE AND ONE DEPUTY MINISTER. IT HAS BEEN RUMORED THAT TWO MEMBERS MAY BE ADDED--BROJO MOHON MOHANTY, SPEAKER OF THE STATE ASSEMBLY, AND BANKABEHARI DAS, A FORMER MINISTER DROPPED BY SATPATHY FROM THE CABINET IN MAY 1975. THEIR APPOINTMENTS ARE SAID TO BE AWAITING APPROVAL FROM DELHI. THE NEW MINISTRY IS THE FOURTEENTH SINCE INDEPENDENCE IN ORISSA, A STATE NOT KNOWN FOR ITS POLITICAL STABILITY.

2. MINISTRY IS LARGELY COMPOSED OF HOLD-OVERS, TEN OF THE FOURTEEN MEMBERS HAVING SERVED IN THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT.  
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EIGHT OF THE NINE CABINET MINISTERS WERE KNOWN PUBLICLY AS ACTIVE OPPONENTS OF MRS. SATPATHY, AND ONLY ONE AS HER SUPPORTER. GENERALLY THE MINISTRY SHOWS LITTLE EVIDENCE OF NEW BLOOD, AND ACHARYA HIMSELF IS SEEN BY OBSERVERS AS A WEAK LEADER.

3. THE MAN THOUGHT TO BE BEHIND ACHARYA IS J.B. PATNAIK,

RECENTLY ELEVATED TO THE POSITION OF UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE. IT IS SAID THAT HE GOT THE EAR OF SANJAY GANDHI--THROUGH DEFENSE MINISTER BANSI LAL--AND CONVINCED HIM TO INTERVENE IN ORISSA AND HAVE SATPATHY REMOVED. HE NOW PRESUMABLY WISHES TO HAVE A WEAK GOVERNMENT IN BHUBAN-ESWAR, SO THAT HE CAN CALL THE SHOTS FROM DELHI OR TAKE OVER AT A LATER DATE AS CHIEF MINISTER IF HE SO DESIRES.

4. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, NEW CHIEF MINISTER'S INAUGURAL SPEECH SAID NOTHING OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE. HE PROMISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD UNDERTAKE VIGOROUS DROUGHT RELIEF MEASURES, AND SAID THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE ADEQUATE ASSISTANCE. HE REPORTEDLY HAD PARTICULAR PRAISE FOR THE LAUNCHING OF THE 20-POINT PROGRAM "BY OUR ILLUSTRIOUS PRIME MINISTER AND THE FIVE-POINT PROGRAM BY OUR LEADER MR. SANJAY GANDHI."

5. FULL LIST OF ORISSA MINISTRY IS AS FOLLOWS:

CABINET MINISTERS:

CHIEF MINISTER BINAYAK ACHARYA--HOME, FINANCE, POLITICAL SERVICES, PLANNING AND CORRINATION; SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI--REVENUE, IRRIGATION AND POWER, EDUCATION, YOUTH SERVICES, LAW; LAMAN MULLIK--WORKS, TRANSPORT; RAMACHANDRA ULAKA--FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES; MOHAN NAYAK--COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE, URBAN DEVELOPMENT; KANHUCHARAN LENKA--INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE; DR. BENUDHAR BALIARSING--LABOR, EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, EXCISE; BHAGIRATHI GOMANGO--HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING; DR. JOGESH ROUT--AGRICULTURE, COPPERATION.

MINISTERS OF STATE:

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JAGANNATH PATNAIK--MINING AND GEOLOGY (WILL ASSIST WITH FINANCE, PLANNING AND COORDINATION); MAUTLAB ALI--CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (WILL ASSIST WITH REVENUE, EDUCATION, YOUTH SERVICES); ANANGO UDAY SINGH DEO--FORESTS, FISHERIES AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY; BHAJAMAN BEHERA--TRIBAL AND RURAL WELFARE.

DEPUTY MINISTER:

MOHAN NAG--WILL ASSIST WITH HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING.  
LIEBOWITZ  
UNQTE SCHNEIDER

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NNN



## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Reference:** 76 CALCUTTA 3134, 76 CALCUTTA 3111  
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**TAGS:** PINT, IN, (ACHARYA, BINAYAK)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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